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DATE March 17, 2004
NAME Examiner Bradley Sisson
COMPANY USPTO
FAX NUMBER 571-273-0751
FROM Dedra B. Ross for Gwendolyn Spratt
REFERENCE NO. 14014.0349U2
OUR FAX NUMBER 678-420-9301
NUMBER OF PAGES 7

Examiner Sisson-

As you requested are copies of the Response to Restriction Requirement and a copy of the Postcard. I will call you to verify you received this information.

Thank you
Dedra B. Ross

CONFIDENTIALITY NOTE

The information which follows and is transmitted herewith is attorney privileged, trade secret and confidential information intended only for viewing and use of the individual or entity named above. If the reader of this message is not the intended recipient, you are hereby notified that any review, use, communication, dissemination, distribution or copying of this communication is strictly prohibited. If you have received this communication in error, please immediately notify us by telephone and return the original message to us at the above address.

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SERIAL NO. 10/049,586

finger domain. This polypeptide also interacts with ARE, and is novel and unobvious with regard to the prior art. Therefore, the claims do relate to a single inventive concept under PCT Rule 13.1.

Furthermore, Applicants request that the restriction requirement be reconsidered because it has not been shown that a serious burden would be required to examine all the claims.

M.P.E.P. § 803 provides:

If the search and examination of an entire application can be made without serious burden, the Examiner must examine it on the merits, even though it includes claims to distinct or independent inventions. (*Emphasis added.*)

Thus, for a restriction requirement to be proper, the following two criteria must be satisfied: (1) the existence of independent and distinct inventions (35 U.S.C. § 121); and (2) that search and examination of the entire application cannot be made without serious burden. See M.P.E.P. § 803.

However, it has not been shown that the second requirement has been met, i.e., that it would be a serious burden to search and examine the groups together. In particular, restriction groups I, II, IV and V are drawn to methods of screening and identifying agents for their ability to interact with or mimic TTP. More particularly, any search for group IV would require searching for interactions between the zinc finger region of TTP and an ARE of mRNA. Since such a search would also identify any art relevant to the other groups, no additional burden is required to examine all of the groups together. Because little or no additional burden would be required to search and examine the groups together, applicants respectfully submit that the groups should be searched and examined together. For these reasons, reconsideration and withdrawal of the restriction requirement is requested.

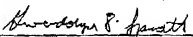
For the reasons stated above, applicants respectfully assert that restriction of the claims as set forth in the present Office Action would be contrary to promoting efficiency, economy and expediency in the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office and further point out that requirements for

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restriction under 35 U.S.C. § 121 are discretionary (M.P.E.P. § 803.01). Therefore, applicants respectfully request that all of the claims of this application be examined together. Consequently, reconsideration and modification or withdrawal of the restriction requirement is requested.

Credit Card Payment Form PTO-2038 in the amount of \$1,480.00 (extension of time fee) and a Request for Extension of Time are enclosed. No additional fees are believed to be due; however, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any fees that may be required or to credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 14-0629.

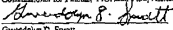
Respectfully submitted,


Gwendolyn D. Spratt
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CERTIFICATE OF MAILING UNDER 37 C.F.R. 1.8

I hereby certify that this document is being deposited with the United States Postal Service at first class mail in an envelope addressed to:
Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 460, Alexandria, VA 22313-1460, on the date indicated below.


Gwendolyn D. Spratt

12-11-03
Date